



## Louisiana Drinking Water Protection Team

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section  
P.O. Box 4314  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BATON ROUGE,  
LA  
PERMIT NO. 644

Subscriber Name  
Number Street Address  
City, State Postal Code  
Country

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Visit us at our new website:  
<http://www.deq.state.la.us/evaluation/aeps/DWPP/index.htm>

## GOT NEWS? IDEAS?

If you have any news or ideas that you would like to share with other communities in next year's issue of the newsletter, please submit them to Micaela Marchand at [Micaela.Marchand@la.gov](mailto:Micaela.Marchand@la.gov) or at the following mailing address:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of Environmental Assessment  
Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section  
Post Office Box 4314  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314  
225-219-3510



## CONGRATULATIONS ! THE DRINKING WATER PROTECTION TEAM SALUTES

**Louisiana Rural Water Association, Water System Operator of the Year (South):**  
Keith Mayeaux, Avoyelles Water District #1, Bordelonville, LA

**Louisiana Rural Water Association, Energy Conservation System of the Year (South):**  
Mire-Branch Water Corp., Duson, LA

**Louisiana Rural Water Association, Wellhead Protection System of the Year:**  
Egan Water Corporation, Egan, LA

**Wellhead Protection Programs Approved in September 2003– August 2004:**  
Village of Morse, South Rayne Water Corporation, LAWCO-Mansura, Town of Olla, Magnolia Plantation Water System, Southwest Avoyelles Water District, Ward One Water System, Village of Choudrant, and Beekman Water System, Fifth Ward, Village of Estherwood, Town of Iota.

### Printed on Recycled Paper

This public document was printed at a total cost of \$1000.58. A total of 800 copies was included in this first printing at a cost of \$1000.58. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4314, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4314 to provide the public with environmental information in accordance with La. R.S. 30:2011 using standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to La. R.S. 43:31.



September 2004

Office of Environmental Assessment

Issue 8



## DEQ's Drinking Water Protection Program Moves on to Acadia Parish

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Drinking Water Protection Program is continuing its successful campaign message of "Protect Drinking Water One Drop At A Time." Acadia Parish, home of the Frog and Rice Festivals, was selected as the next parish for the comprehensive campaign. The Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) is a voluntary program designed to assist communities in protecting their drinking water sources.

Drinking water is a valuable resource that is essential for good health. Louisiana gets approximately two-thirds of its drinking water from ground water, and one-third from surface water. Knowing how to protect drinking water from contamination is vital. Through the DWPP, DEQ works to inform the public



Tiffani Cravens, DEQ geologist, demonstrates the properties of an aquifer to students at St. Francis Elementary in Acadia Parish.

of steps that each person can take to protect the integrity of their drinking water source. Other goals of the DWPP include promoting public awareness and community involvement.

DEQ's Drinking Water Protection Team for Acadia Parish consists of two geologists, Mary Gentry and Tiffani Cravens.

During the initial phase of the

(Continued on page 2)

## On Location: "Drinking Water and You"



"Drinking Water and You" film crew on location in Baton Rouge

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Protection Team enlisted the help of Digital FX, a video production company in Baton Rouge, to produce a new video on drinking water protection. The ten minute video, entitled "Drinking Water and You," was filmed on location around Baton Rouge on July 1st and 2nd,

under the direction of Luther Gooch.

The video follows spokesperson, Arlando Smith, as he takes a tour of a community. Learn the source of drinking water and how it gets to the faucet in your home or business. Learn what a contaminant is and simple steps you can take to protect your drinking water source.

The fun, educational video is appropriate for middle school children through adults. To learn more about "Drinking Water and You," or to request a copy, contact the Drinking Water Protection Team at 225-219-3510, or mail a request to the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section, PO Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA, 70821-4314.



# Acadia Parish

*(Continued from page 1)*

Drinking Water Protection campaign, held February 4 through March 31, the Drinking Water Protection Team visited public and private schools in Acadia Parish to present environmental information to over 2,000 students.

A community meeting was held to address the goals and issues of the program on Thursday, April 1 at 6:30 pm at the Rayne Civic Center. About 40 citizens comprised of elected officials, members of community groups, businesses and industry, came out to learn about drinking water protection. During the presentation, the team shared protection and conservation tips that can be used to protect drinking water.

After the meeting, approximately 25 residents volunteered their time, service and resources to form the Acadia Parish Drink-

ing Water Protection Committee. The committee works with the community to create a sustainable drinking water protection program. The first meeting of the Acadia Parish Committee was held on April 29, 2004. The committee elected Nick Simoneaux as chairman.

Since its formation, the committee has held four additional meetings and acquired five new members. The committee has introduced drinking water protection ordinances to local government. Through another project, the committee visited facilities within drinking water protection areas that could pose threats to the environment. The committee volunteers distributed fact sheets on protecting drinking water and “Drinking Water Protection Partner” decals to the businesses. As a result of the committee’s

effort, both the City of Rayne and the Town of Churchpoint passed drinking water protection ordinances.

For more information on the Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Program and Committee, please contact Mary Gentry or Tiffani Cravens at 225-319-3510 or mail a request to the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section, PO Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA, 70821-4314.



Mary Gentry, DEQ Geologist, discusses the Drinking Water Protection Program with Ernest Villejo, Water Operator for the Village of Estherwood.

# Your Drinking Water Questions Answered

*“There is a radiator shop across the street from my water system that I believe to be storing their waste in drums onsite. How can I find out if it is being disposed of properly?”*

Areas directly surrounding drinking water wells and surface water intakes are especially sensitive to contamination. If a spill were to occur at the radiator shop across the street, it could affect the quality of your system’s drinking water. You have every right to be concerned.

If you suspect the radiator shop

to be disposing of waste improperly, call the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Hotline at 225-342-1234. Emphasize that there is a drinking water well near the site.

Some businesses might not be aware that there is a drinking water source nearby or that their actions could potentially affect

drinking water quality. The Drinking Water Protection Team has informative fact sheets that can be mailed to businesses that handle, store, or dispose of chemicals. For more information about these materials, contact the Drinking Water Protection Team at 225-219-3510.

# Drinking Water Protection Team Visits River Parishes Summer Camp

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water Protection Team conducted over 24 presentations in June and July for the River Parishes Summer Camp in St. James Parish. Drinking water protection proved an appropriate topic, as the grant that the summer camp received this year was for a “Great River Camp.” The name denotes the source of St. James Parish drinking water, the Mississippi River.

Children ages five to thirteen participated in age appropriate, hands-on activities. The younger children learned about the hydrologic cycle and ‘made a rain-

storm,’ using noises from snapping, clapping, and rubbing their hands together, carefully orchestrated by a Drinking Water Protection Team Member.

Groups of older children participated in activities such as pouring water through funnels filled with sand, clay, and gravel to determine which one the water would travel through fastest, thereby making it the ‘best aquifer’ material.

Aquifer and surface water models were used with all age groups to demonstrate how drinking water can become contaminated, as well as the connection between surface water and ground water. All groups received hand-

outs with information regarding the hydrologic cycle, interesting water facts and/or a water word find.

The children were eager to raise their hands to ask or answer questions. When the Drinking Water Team asked the children, “What are some examples of contaminants or things you wouldn’t want in your drinking water?” answers varied from lizards and ladybugs, dirt and rocks, to oil, gasoline and chemicals.

Educational materials on drinking water protection are available upon request. For more information, contact the Drinking Water Protection Team at 225-219-3510 or email Micaela.Marchand@la.gov.

# Avoyelles Parish Celebrates Accomplishments

The Avoyelles Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee celebrated its accomplishments at a cookout at the Cottonport Bank Camp on August 27, 2004.

Since its inception in May of 2003, the Avoyelles Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee has worked diligently under the leadership of chairman Jerry Smith on efforts to protect the parish’s drinking water. Accomplishments include:

- Visiting all potential sources of contamination in drinking water protection areas, and providing these facilities with information on best management practices and “Drinking Water Protection Partner” decals.
- Encouraging the passage of drinking water protection ordinances in the parish and all municipalities that contain public supply wells within their city limits. As of September, 2004, the City of Marksville, Town of Simmesport, the Village of Moreauville, and the



The Avoyelles Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee welcomed guests from the State Fire Marshal's office to its meeting on March 4, 2004 at the Bunkie Civic Center to discuss regulations on above ground chemical storage tanks.

Avoyelles Parish Police Jury had passed drinking water protection ordinances. The Mansura town council is currently reviewing the ordinance.

- Publishing informational releases in the local newspaper on used oil recycling, irrigation well best management practices, and plugging abandoned wells.

- Distributing information to the community in the form of fact sheets on used oil recycling, irrigation well best management practices, and plugging of abandoned wells.
- Developing a spill prevention and control plan to be distributed to those who have above ground chemical storage tanks on their property.

Participants on the Avoyelles Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee are Jerry Smith, Ray and Carolyn Bordelon, Connie Ducote, Frank “P.T.” Palermo, Robert Lemoine, Ted Lemoine, Joyce Prier, Janet Gros, Mike Gonzales, Lufroi Aymond, Keith Mayeux, Terry Bonnette, Kirk Garber, Ernest Freeman, Christobal Lopez, Jerry Ducey, Elaine McCann, Houston Turner, and Susan Shore.

The Avoyelles Drinking Water Protection Committee will join with the Avoyelles Parish Water Operators Group. Through combined efforts, the groups will continue their work to protect drinking water in the Avoyelles Parish Community.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s Drinking Water Protection Team members Jesse Means and Micaela Marchand will continue to assist the Committee in their efforts, but also will be initiating another Drinking Water Protection Program in Natchitoches Parish.

# Photos from the Year



Mayor Jimbo Petitjean of Rayne gave the opening and closing remarks at the Acadia Parish Community Meeting on drinking water protection. Mayor Petitjean also generously provided the meeting facility and refreshments for the meeting.



Citizens attend the Acadia Parish Community Meeting on drinking water protection at the Rayne Civic Center on Thursday, April 1st, 2004.



The City of Rayne posted signs that read “Drinking Water Protection Area.” These signs are provided to public water systems by DEQ’s Drinking Water Protection Team and Louisiana Rural Water to identify areas around wells and intakes that are sensitive to contamination. These signs will replace “Wellhead Protection Area” signs.